

# Educational Touring Theatre

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**Contact Name:**

Neil Spencer

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**Artistic Disciplines:**

[Folk Arts](#), [Theatre](#)

**Travel Regions:**

[East Tennessee](#), [Middle Tennessee](#), [West Tennessee](#)

**Populations/Areas of Interest:**

The Educational Touring Theatre (ETT) is a curriculum-based, professional touring theatre. ETT specializes in developing and presenting theatre programs that are designed to both educate and entertain. ETT has visited over 2,100 schools across the country, giving more than 7,3000 presentations.

ETT was founded in 1982 by professional actor Neil Spencer. Originally known as Poe on Tour, the theatre, based in Washington State, specialized in presenting the works of author Edgar Allan Poe.

After relocating to Minnesota, the theatre expanded its programming and was renamed the Minnesota Educational Theatre. Along with Edgar Allan Poe programs, presentations were developed about the dawn of the 20th Century in America (“The Turn of the Century Showcase”), the American Civil War (“Smoke & Fury”), and the Klondike Gold Rush (“Yukon Gold”). The theatre was also selected by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to create and perform a special program celebrating the centennial of the Minnesota State Park system (“A Rendezvous with Jacob Brower”).

In 2000, ETT moved to Tennessee and partnered with the Adventure Science Center of Nashville to create two very popular science based programs, “Sir Isaac Newton: The Apple and Beyond” and “Giants of Electrical Science”. More recently, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation commissioned ETT to create “The Energy Detective”, which explores alternative energy sources and promotes energy efficiency.

6-8, K-5, Underserved

**Social Media:**

ETT remains committed to creating and presenting high quality, professional educational theatre programs that integrate science, history, literature and the arts.

ETT Founder and Director Neil Spencer is a member of the Actor's Equity Association, which is the union of professional actors and stage managers. In addition to his work with ETT, Spencer's credits include performances for Tacoma Actors Guild, The Guthrie Theatre, CLIMB Theatre and the Horse Cave Theatre (Kentucky Repertory Theater). While a member of the professional acting company at the Science Museum of Minnesota, Spencer gave more than 1,300 performances from a 20-role repertoire. He is a Teaching Artist for the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's ArtSmart Program. Spencer studied theater at The National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Minnesota.

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## ARTIST WORK SAMPLES

**File 1:**  
[GOES](#)

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**File 2:**  
[The Energy Detective](#)

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**File 3:**  
[Newton, The Apple Beyond](#)

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## SAMPLE PROGRAMS OFFERED

**Program Title:**

The Energy Detective

**Program Type:**

Arts Appreciation

**Program Description:**

The Energy Detective is a fast paced, interactive theatre presentation. With the help of student volunteers, this one-man show explores five electrical energy sources: fossil fuels, wind power, nuclear energy, water power, and solar energy. The presentation also highlights conservation and energy efficiency. Included with the performance is the hands-on Energy Casebook workshop. These presentations were developed in partnership with Duck River Electric Membership Corporation. The Energy Detective performance runs 70 minutes, Energy Casebook workshops run 45 – 60 minutes.

DATES OFFERED: 09/10/2018 – 05/17/2019

COST: \$800

**Lesson Plan Example:**

[Download File](#)

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**Program Title:**

Giants of Electrical Science

**Program Type:**

Arts Appreciation

**Program Description:**

Giants of Electrical Science is a fast paced, interactive theatre presentation. With the help of student volunteers, this one-man show highlights the electrical discoveries of Franklin, Volta, Faraday, and

Edison. Included with the performance is the hands-on Electricity Party workshop. These presentations were developed in partnership with the Adventure Science Center of Nashville. Giants performance runs 60 minutes, Electricity Party workshops run 45 – 60 minutes.

DATES OFFERED: 09/10/2018 – 05/17/2019

COST: \$800

**Lesson Plan Example:**

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**Program Title:**

Sir Issac Newton: The Apple and Beyond

**Program Type:**

Arts Appreciation

**Program Description:**

Sir Isaac Newton: The Apple and Beyond is a fast paced, interactive theatre presentation that introduces students to the life and science of history's greatest scientist, Isaac Newton. The hands-on physics workshop Move It is included as part of the presentation package. These programs were developed in partnership with the Adventure Science Center of Nashville. The Apple and Beyond performance runs 55 minutes, the Move It workshop runs 45-60 minutes.

DATES OFFERED: 09/10/2018 – 05/17/2019

COST: \$800

**Lesson Plan Example:**

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